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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MADERA MAN SENTENCED TO TEN-YEAR PRISON TERM**  
**FOR POSSESSING VISUAL DEPICTIONS OF THE**  
**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS**

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that WILLIAM EDWARD HUGHES, 32, of Madera, California was sentenced by the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger to a term of imprisonment of ten years for his conviction of one count of possessing visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors.

HUGHES was convicted on August 4, 2003 for possession of child pornography in California Superior Court in Madera County. That offense was a misdemeanor for which HUGHES was sentenced to 180 days in jail and three years of probation. He admitted in his federal case that, while on probation for the prior case, he possessed images of the sexual exploitation of minors. The prior conviction subjected the defendant to a mandatory minimum federal prison term of ten years.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, this case was the result of an investigation that began with a referral from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children CyberTipline. The investigation was conducted jointly by investigators with the California Department of Justice Sexual Predator Apprehension Team in Fresno and the Fresno Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Fresno.

In addition to the ten-year prison term, HUGHES will be subject to a five-year term of supervised release, will be required to register as a sex offender, and will be required to undergo mental health and sex offender treatment as directed by a probation officer.

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